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Congo News Letter

DECEMBER 1956

CONGO NEWS LETTER

Vol. XLVIII DECEMBER 1956 No. 4

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Published Quarterly by the Missionaries of the A.B.F.M.S.

Subscription price 75 cents a year; 3 years or 3 subscriptions for $2.00. Subscriptions may be sent to Treasurer, A.B.F.M.S., 152 Madison Ave., New York 16, N.Y. Subscription price in Congo 35 francs. Address correspondence to Editor C.N.L., B. P. 4728, Leopoldville 2, Belgian Congo.

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THE YEAR THE PEOPLE RECEIVED NOTHING

"....they offered unto him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh."

CHRISTMAS for most of us means a time of secrets, furtive hiding of presents, round-about tactics to discover what a loved-one might like or need. It is a time when the glow and warmth of giving is a reminder and a symbol of that Greatest Gift of Love the world has ever known. It is true that the real meaning of giving has been distorted by commercialism and sometimes by our own attempts at outguessing Mrs. Jones... "now how much do you suppose she'll spend on our present?" ... but for Christians its reality still lies in the *joy* of giving.

For the average Congolese a gift is something entirely different. If he gives a gift it is usually because he wants to ask a favor, or is hoping for a better or more useful gift in return. Or it may be given as a social obligation — almost like a tax. Missionaries coming to Congo with the Good News of Jesus Christ wanted to make the day of His birth something special for the Congolese too. So partly to share the spirit of Christmas with their African brethren and partly to eke out the meager salaries they received, the custom of giving out gifts at Christmas time to the full-time Christian workers and their families and the station children was begun. To the dismay of the missionaries this was not always the joyous occasion it sounds like and perhaps understandably so. When the one and only Christmas gift you are to receive all year turns out to be one little washrag or a pencil and a handkercief, it is not always easy to be happy about it. And there are those who have not been timid about saying so. Unhappily the idea of giving gifts to each other did not catch on, partly because of poverty and partly because the basic idea of a gift, as we think of it, is still foreign to African mentality. So Christmas meant the time you'd receive *one* gift from the *Missioni*. The big question was, "What would it be?"

As last Christmas season approached the Kimpese staff was dicussing some of these matters and the fact that there just did not seem to be enough things available to give out that year even

to the children on the station. So it was decided to try something different. Seven kilometers away at IME, the medical division of Kimpese, were about fifty little children in the hospital. One group of them had tuberculosis of the spine and had been there for many months; a good many of the others were polio victims who had come for orthopedic operations in the hope of walking again with crutches or braces or perhaps all by themselves. Others were just sick. .... It was announced in chapel that all who wished — students, workers, wives, chidren were welcome to come to the women's center for the nights before Christmas and make toys for these children. (This lovely big women's or Family center was built with funds provided by the Women's World Day of Prayer and from our own Baptist Women's board.) Material for making the toys would be provided.

It was with great surprise that the missionaries found that huge hall jammed each night. The men, women and children were all eager to do something. The students had cut "bamboo" — not the real kind but a palm that resembles it and which splits and shapes easily for making toys; and there were cloth and needdles for the women. In four nights of work they were way over the quota — and the ingenuity shown was amazing. The women made rag dolls, cutting their own patterns, stuffed them with dried grass and even made slips and dresses for them. The men ... well, everything ... bamboo jeeps with seats, doors that opened, and stearing wheels that turned; boats, airplanes — one with a two-foot wing-spread complete with wing struts, molded fuselage and it was even painted. There were two mahogany three-wheeled scooters, very sturdy; they had even made the wheels for them. There were long, hollow, light-weight tube-like toys in which pebbles had been placed and then at intervals pegs driven through so that when the tube was turned up the other way, the pebbles would slowly skip down to the bottom making a pleasant rattle — fun for a small child who must stay in bed for weeks on end. Several pairs of small mahogany crutches among the gifts rather tugged at your heart-strings.

Christmas afternoon the gifts were given out with the Hospital staff suggesting to whom which things should go — so many beaming faces you never saw in your life and the "beaming-

est" were those of the givers ! There was plenty for even the outpatient children and even for the children who were not ill but were staying at the hospital with their sick mothers.

After the gifts were distributed over a hundred EPIites caroled in the three main hospital buildings. The happiness and radiance of those carolers was a thing to behold. Some missionaries said that never before in the Christmasses they'd spent in Congo had they seen such happiness on Christ's birthday as on the year the people received nothing, but *gave* instead.

Stately palms shade one of the oldest roads in the city of Léopoldville.

January

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MISSION SECRETARY: CARS AND CONGO

AS we drive a car around over the Congo roads, it is a good idea to keep a close check on the instrument panel. Is the battery being charged? Is the oil circulating properly and if not, what can be done about it? Is there enough gas in the tank to take us to our destination, or are we able to get a refill along the way?

As we make out reports and look back over the past year, we can make this check-up. Needed buildings have been erected and put into use; new villages have been occupied and some new churches organized. Candidates have been entered in the new classes leading up to a supply of trained workers for the church, for the school, for the medical, building and office work. We are told that figures don't lie but that many liars can figure. Even so we can turn to the actual statistical figures of last year and be proud and thankful. 4175 people did not get baptised by accident but because there are hundreds of living witnesses through-out the mission who by precept and example are leading their Congolese brothers to faith in Christ. The fact that something over one-half of these new converts came from one station might be a cause for us to check up on some spark plugs or the distributor and see if we cannot smooth out the load distribution. As the cost of carrying on the whole program of the mission increases, most of the churches have also increased their giving. The total for last year was over $100,000.

Do we have gas for the journey ahead of us? Smiths have retired and others are soon to go, but the filling station seems to be doing a much better job than it has in the past. .... From our schools here in Congo too we are receiving young men and women who are taking their places in the work. The future of the whole enterprise depends on them. Yet often they come back to us with some strange ideas in their minds along with the solid foundations they were taught. Recently our school inspector had difficulty with the car. Along with some good gasoline other less combustible matters got into the gas tank. Annis took the car to the garage and they did a lot of work, then on her way home the car stalled at a big intersection. There is probably no easy or quick way by which we can overcome our weaknesses but with the cooperation of our Congo colleagues we will keep trying.

The Matadi railroad station stands on the former A.B.F.M.S. mission site.

February

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SCHOOL INSPECTOR'S MUDDLES

EVERY year our mission school inspector must hand in to the government an annual school report composed of a series of *modèles*. Our inspector, Annis Ford, pronounces that "muddle" and here are a few statistics gleaned from the "muddle":

Last year we had 280 infants todding around in our kindergarten and preparatory classes. A great proportion of our 6297 first and second graders sat on logs and lost their slate pencils at least three times during the 15-month year. We had 6,988 average attendance in ordinary second degree (3rd — 5th grades), with 909.8 boys in our *sélectionnés*. The last trimester showed some drop in attendance but mostly among girls who lost interest or went off to plant peanuts before this extra-long school year ended.

Our total enrollment in the school for apprentice teachers was 219 with about 90 graduates entering teaching service this year. An average of 240 girls attended our Home-making schools, 45 of these in the post-primary school at Banza Manteke, the rest in primary level schools at Kikongo, Sona Bata and Vanga. The clerical course at Vanga and the Secondary School at Banza Manteke included 55 and 127 students respectively.

What we eat: This may include kwanga (a sour manioc bread), and caterpillars, luku (manioc porridge) and ducks, dried fish, flour and sweet potatoes — and last year we spent $30,000. At the present rate of spending, the cost of feeding a student for a year looks like this: Boko $16.36, Kikongo $12.54, Moanza $9.42, Banza Manteke $10.78, Sona Bata $16.90, and Vanga $9.10. Moanza would spend more if they could find the food to buy. Parents, choose your schools.

During the year the Miss Ford inspected all stations and their regional schools with one return trip to Vanga to visit some of the schools at a slower pace than the usual 10-12 classes a day. Only two pianos were tunehd during this year's inspections but the number of "Toni's" given increases steadily. Gains have been made on sweet and sour pork, and on doughnuts. More than 15,000 kilometers have been covered on inspection trips. The inspector's Studebaker can find its way to every grease pit on the mission and has consumed almost 4,000 liters of gas as well as about 18 days of work underneath.

Along an old caravan route in the Banza Manteke field may be seen this memorial to those liberated from portage by Matadi-Léo railroad.

March

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BANZA MANTEKE

MOONLIGHT song fests by our girls,....cheering of the boys on the football field; ..... the grass fire thatsent the younger girls scurrying from their dorms, lock, stock and mattress; (it was a false alarm)....the feasting later that same day when they took to the hills with machetes and hoes and came back bearing hundreds of field mice to be roasted over their open fires; the evident delight with which our students wore their new school uniforms; our joy as missionaries in seeing over one HUNDRED of them step forward on Decision Sunday to indicate their desire to follow Christ in baptism; — these are just some of the things that have made the past school-year at Banza Manteke hectic, interesting, and most worthwhile.

The arrival of Remy Malutama from Belgium was the high point of the year. He was greeted by nearly 1000 school children cheering his return to them and to his family. Remy's fluency in three languages, thorough understanding of his own people, his adaptability in working easily with the students and teachers, and the enthusiasm with which he went about his work of classroom teaching and directing the secondary school was an inspiration to us all. That he could continue but seven short months before his death has been a very deep loss in our educational program as well as to the mission.

The B. M. evangelistic program also suffered a great loss in the death of Martin Engwall. But in the months before his death, 1037 had been baptized and 104 had come back into the church, even though many of the biggest matondos had not yet been held.

The wife of one of our pastors, Mama Nkengi, who was sent as a delegate to Mbundani (church meeting for the whole mission) came home very enthused about the Lord's work. Someone here at our African Women's Conference asked her how much she was paid and she answered, "I don't want any pay, I'm so very happy to witness for my Lord."

Since the Leper camp at Kimpese has not as yet been opened we continue to care for lepers from the whole bas-Congo area. There were 264 of them in treatment during the year, of whom 136 were returned to their villages as either clean cases or else with a form of the disease so mild as to make isolation unnecessary.

In many parts of the Boko field the old magical rites still hold the preponderance of influence.

April

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BOKO: ADVANCING FOR CHRIST

THE happy hum of excited voices, expectant faces, hands shaking with eagerness — all indications of a time of real joy! The evangelistic-literacy campaign is in full swing. Men and women are learning about the Saviour and they are learning to READ about Him. It is the greatest experience they have ever had. We have had five such campaigns and all of them have brought changes in the months following. ... Baptisms have increased in a gratifying way. Two important chiefs have been baptized. .. We have fourteen husky Regional Schools, but in schools and evangelistic work we have one pressing problem, the lack of qualified workers. Most of the work must be done by mere boys — they are doing very well for their age, but maturity and experience are lacking.

It was a rude awakening for the Boko evangelistic missionary last month when he discovered that he was hardly touching one half of the Bayaka territory that is in the Boko field. On a trip through the southern and eastern parts of the Boko territory we found that there are more than four hundred villages that have had no contact at all with the Protestant Gospel message. Wherever we went people came to us and asked for teachers.

In the Popokabaka area our pastor was travelling through the nearby villages to the south asking two questions, "Would you like the Mission to come to reach you? Would you like to know about the new life in Christ Jesus?" Village after village were friendly to him. But a few—including a Congolese policeman— felt they had to stop him. They accused Kayaba of preaching another God...or in other words starting a forbidden movement. He was taken to the state official who, after hearing their accusation laughed loud and long. He said, "Isn't this the pastor who works with me at Popokabaka? Didn't you know who this man was?" The accusers melted into the crowd. Turning to Kayaba the official said, "Go on, continue with your work."

As present we have four requests for new schools in unoccupied areas. We have only young boys to put in charge, yet Jesus Himself advanced with twelve humble men, none of whom were prepared for the task of evangelizing the world.

Daily chapel at Ecole de Pasteurs et Instituteurs, Kimpese is held in this lovely brick and concrete structure.

May

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EPIDEMICS AT E.P.I.

THE 1955-56 school year of *14 months* has finally come to an end and we hope the September to July arrangement will continue for some time without another changeover. .... This is the first year that we of the ABFMS have been able to put our full quota of six missionaries on the staff. In the six schools this year, there were a total of 814 students. Of these 11 received their diplomas in the first graduation for the 6-year Normal School course. We realize that with these men we have entered a new epoch in the history of our work and prayerfully admit them into our fellowship with its problems, responsibilities and privileges hoping that in certain areas they will take over and do a better job than we could do.

In the Women's school there were 77 women who were divided into three classses. They all progressed in reading, writing, arithmetic and Bible study and had many periods of "homemaking" classes. The top class even learned to make their own patterns for dresses and shirts. The women were handicapped this year because of the five epidemics — measles, dysentery, mumps, chicken pox and whooping cough — which caught most of the children. We have used enormous quantities of vitamins and cod liver oil in trying to maintain the strength of the children who were getting or recovering from something all year.

We had another epidemic this year which did not concern the dispensary — that of government inspections. There were six in all and each inspector had a different idea. .... but we are endeavouring to do all that we can to conform to the rules so that our diplomas may continue to be held in high regard by the State.

On three Sundays each month ten teams of students have gone out to about 40 of the surrounding villages to preach. We also are starting a chapel at the commercial center to serve the floating population there. We expect this chapel to be a good preaching station and practice church set-up for our *Cour de Théologie* men. Although we experienced much difficulty in getting permission to build a church in the new commercial center, it is now cleared, the land bought, and we are now trying to raise the money to build. We trust that E.P.I. may continue to develop more and better leaders for the work of the Church of Christ in Congo.

A lad is awed by the mystery of this mask. At Institut Biblique, Kikongo, future pastors are taught to reveal the greatest mystery the love of God who sent His Son.

June

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INSTITUT BIBLIQUE

THE beginning of the school year 1956-57 has marked the opening of the first fourth year class at I.B. This is a step toward making I.B. the same level as the Moniteur's (Teacher's) school at Kimpese. Last year there were three classes in the men's school and three of primary level in the women's school. During the entire year it was not necessary to have a meeting of the school discipline committee.

We are happy to have the fourteen students who were accepted for entering the first year class this fall but are concerned about the fact that ten of the fourteen come from Vanga. We pray that these men may be willing to serve anywhere in the mission according to the need.

When school opened in September we had thirty student residences completed and we hope to complete ten others during the school year. During the past year the class and administration building has been enlarged by the addition of one more class room, an additional office and a printing room. A small but adequate house was completed for our kindergarten children.

A library has been established with a Memorial Specific. We have purchased books and periodicals in French dealing with Theology, Church History and Bible study. Students will use these for reference and outside reading.

During the past school year eight I.B. men made a trip to each of our mission stations where they presented Gospel messages and told about the work at I.B. The aim of this trip which covered 2990 kilometers was to challenge and enlist young people of Congo to consider the work of the ministry. In some twenty-nine meetings the men presented I.B. enthusiastically and with results.

We at I.B. are most concerned and pray that the men and women who come to us return to their stations prepared for and dedicated to life service for our Lord in the Church of Christ in Congo. We want the school to be on the level of a Moniteur's school academically but with added emphasis in Bible and pastoral subjects. Our church workers should not take the back seat in our mission work. We want to prepare and send dedicated Congolese workers into the Congo fields which are white unto harvest.

(*I.M.E.*) *Modern buildings of Institut Medical Evangelique at Kimpese, house hospital and nursing school.*

July

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IME: NEEDED—MEDICAL WORKERS

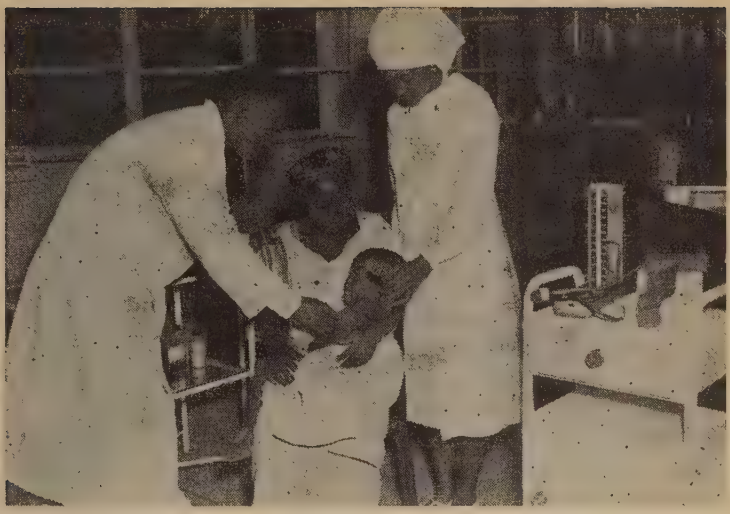
THE hospital work at IME of the past year confirms that the number of new patients seeking treatment is stabilised at about 4,000 per year. An analysis of a section of these shows that of each 100 patients 60 suffer from general medical conditions, 17 are cases of gynecology or sterility, 13 for orthopedics or major surgery, 6 for pregnancy or obstetrics and 3 for pulmonary tuberculosis.

In the school we have had a student body of 59 in the nurse's course this past year and 9 in the aid-midwife's course. A serious problem is getting candidates who are qualified for entrance. Of the almost 60 candidates for the nurses course only 18 have passed their examination. We are handicapped in that most of the better graduates from our central schools prefer to go into teaching where they are assured of a higher salary.

Almost more serious is the pressing need for more missionary staff. There was only one replacement, Dr. Carrie Sprague, for three missionaries who went home on furlough this year and one missionary delayed her furlough because of the staffing shortage. We need very much the services of both a laboratory technician and another doctor. The present missionary staff is composed of 4 nurses, 1 hospital chaplain, 1 hospital administrator and *2 doctors*. The Congolese graduate staff of 5 nurses and 4 midwife aids has been faithful and effective in its service.

Besides supervising the regularly scheduled services for the hospital personnel and the patients, the missionary chaplain does personal work with the patients. Some men and women who have left the church want to come back into full membership again. Bible studies and other helpful pamphlets have been distributed monthly among the patients and their helpers. Literature has also been distributed and it is hoped to organize soon a hospital library. The chaplains wife has taken charge of women's work with a school for sewing, reading and writing and Bible Study.

IME has been growing by leaps and bounds at an almost unbelievable rate. Please pray with us that it may fulfill the purpose that God has for it and that through this institution many Congolese in the future may receive healing for both their bodies and souls.



Congolese nurses and aid-nurses help to spread the medical load at Kikongo and other stations.

August

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KIKONGO: A SPECIAL CHARM

WHEN Livingstone went into Central Africa the natives asked him, "Do people die in your country? Do you have a charm against death?" People still die at Kikongo and we have no charm against death, but with the many new antibiotics, prayer and the Lord's help we are able to save many lives.

Dr. Osterholm has been with us several times this year and we are truly grateful for his visits. A burden falls off our shoulders as soon as he arrives. Patients come to us from long distances and from many different tribes. The last time Dr. Osterholm was with us we had one patient with cataracts on both eyes who had come a two weeks journey on foot. Others who came for surgery had spent several days on the road. We sometimes think that they do feel that *Tata Docteur* has a special charm.

This year we moved the orphans from the rat infested room which they were occupying into a lovely new cottage. The kiddies are as thrilled over their new home as we. ....If you would like to know whether *Meals for Millions* are appreciated or not, come at seven o'clock any morning and see the orphans lined up to receive their bowls of "porridge." The cook conceived the ideal of calling roll just to hear the little tots respond (in French) "present" when their names are called.

In the Kikongo evangelistic work some 130 days were spent by the evangelistic missionary in visiting the villages and Churches this past year. With the exception of one Church, interest and response has been very good. We are especially happy with the Buku Church across the Kwango river. In May 1955 we sent there a young man who had *twice* failed the final first year exams at the Institut Biblique. Yet in this work he did not fail. In September, twenty-nine of the first fruits were baptized. In March 49 of 86 candidates were received. The matondo offering was well over 2000 francs and the regular offering is a steady six to eight hundred francs.

We sincerely believe that according to the size of the field and given a sufficient number of workers with a true compassion for souls, the Kikongo field offers the same potential possibilities as Vanga.

Modern Léopoldville sprawls around Stanley Pool and up and down the river as it tries to absorb its fast-rising population.

September

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WANTED BY LEOPOLDVILLE: MAGICIANS

CHANGE and growth are the order of the day at Léopoldville. New villages are being built and occupied. Buildings are shooting up everywhere. People move overnight, and a horde takes their places. More babies are being born. And we even had three weddings one prayer meeting night.

Last December we were called to the outlying village of Bandalungwa to take over a government-built school of four class-rooms. The regular school year had been going since May, so after Christmas we sent the teachers out to visit our protestant population in Bandalungwa, to tell them about our school and about our church in Léopoldville-ouest. We ran into a gold mine.

So rich were our rewards that we decided to do the same thing in Léopoldville-ouest. As our teachers canvassed the streets, people whom we never knew existed turned up to meet with us. About two hundred more children were enrolled in our school. The result in the church was squeezing plus. People poured into the church office. We sent the deacons out to visit those who said they wanted to see us. We had over six hundred listed as protestant families, rather than the 300 we had known about. During vacation over a hundred more families were added to that. It is a feat of engineering these days to get three-quarters of the people who come *into* the church, so machinery has been set up for the gathering of money for building a new church.

The really new is the Christian center. Last fall we began reading classes for women. We foolishly asked who wanted to learn to read. Seventy signed up immediately. They have been very reluctant to stop, even though they had achieved their original purpose. After finishing the four Laubach books, they went on to the Bible and the certificate of Growth in Christian Knowledge. .... Night school classes have filled Sims house and spilled over into the church and the living rooms of missionary residences.. .... The result of all this is that sleep is become more impossible and some houses rarely see their occupants.

Our real request for missionaries is for several magicians. Maybe they could begin to deal adequately with our responsibilities and opportunities in Léopoldville. Even so, ordinary as we are, we have seen the beginning of miracles this year.

School boys at Moanza and other stations are not allowed to forget the ancient crafts while engaged in the pursuit of more "modern" types of knowledge.

October

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FAMINE AT MOANZA

A REAL struggle for existence characterized the first part of our last school-year, it was so difficult to secure manioc, the staple article of diet. Teachers took turns leading their classes to distant villages to search for and buy food, returning usually with food equal to about two days' rations which we tried to stretch for five days. Gardens were ravaged and immature crops dug in desperation. Rice and corn could not be secured in adequate amounts to really allay hunger. The sick and weak were given porridge and milk. During these weeks it was a real struggle to secure desired attention in the classroom. The girls seemed better able to forage for food in the forests and maintained better dietary habits than the boys.

The difficulties noted above contra-indicated the carrying on of evangelistic visits to the villages by our pupils as we have done in previous years. Also the immaturity of our pupils — who get younger year by year — means that greater numbers of them are needing to be won to Christ and this year the classroom became "home mission field" with each monitor a missionary-ambassador for Christ. A large number were baptized. .... At Easter, a pageant entitled "The Crosses" was prepared by two groups of boys. A picked group gave the presentation on the station and others carried the message of the crosses to the church districts. Combined audiences totaled over 16.000.

During the past year 869 people professed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and were baptized at Moanza. .... To more nearly approach self support our churches which are able to support themselves send 10 % of their income to a central treasury to help weaker churches.

The medical work has grown almost out of hand during 1956. We have had to send home operative cases at each of Doctor Osterholm's visits. On one 102 operative caes were examined and diagnosed. Obviously our 100 bed hospital overflowed onto the floors and finally out under the eaves and trees. Dr. Osterholm is carrying the supervision and surgical work of *four* hospitals, an almost superhuman load, and will be retiring in a year ! We are praying for at least TWO new doctors to come and take over this work in the Kwango.

A Sona Bata school-boy or any other can quickly find the equator on the globe. That's practically where he lives.

November

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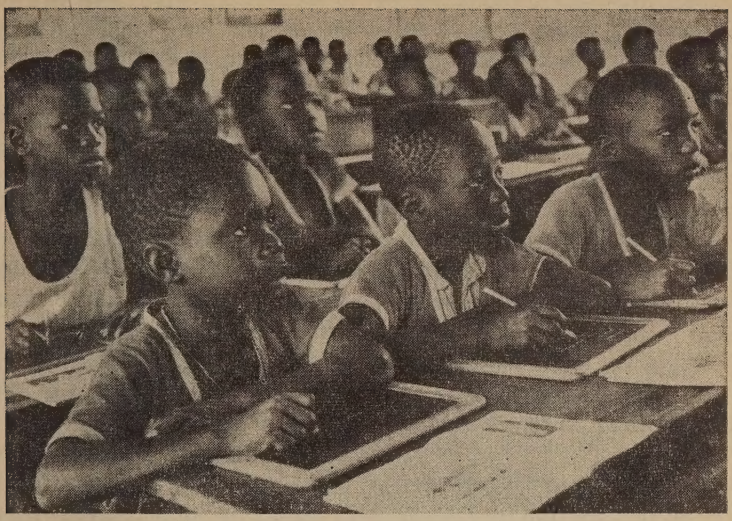
SONA BATA

IF the old adage that many hands make light work is true, then we begin to understand why the work has seemed rather heavy during the past year at Sona Bata. Figures show that neither has there been great gains nor great losses. Some churches have been so hard hit by the moving away of all younger people, and subversive movements, as to have become mere shadows of the past. Other churches show great vitality. The Yongo church under Pastor Muvuvu is one of the brightest examples. This crippled leader is winning people by his burning zeal and love. The church numbers only a little over 200, but 38 were baptized, *matondo* (thanksgiving) offering for union work was over 3,200 francs and monthly offerings average 1,800 francs.

At the yearly church meeting, the committee on church affairs discussed the Dieudonnée movement (where fetishes are burned but replaced by magical holy water) and presented the motion that the movement was not of God. Right there twelve delegates confessed to being led astray and publicly prayed for God's forgiveness. What was encouraging was the fact that the decision was made wholly by the Congo church.

At this meeting also ten thousand francs was set aside as the first grant from *Matondo* funds toward a student loan fund. Rules were drawn up and a committee of three Africans appointed to administer the fund.

Sona Bata school boys and girls had a year filled with many new experiences, new cults, new teachers, new classrooms and new missionaries. It all added spice, excitement and life was definitely not monotonous. One class added something new. Following the usual friendly battles between juniors and seniors, three of the seniors gave the names of the junior boys to a powerful (??) witch doctor. He was to "tie their names" and cause them to flunk their exams. .... The missionary decided they needed more direct spiritual help and began teaching personally their daily Bible class. The boys were concerned about new cults and new "prophets", their power to heal and to speak in tongues. It is evident that these school boys have an unmet hunger for spiritual experience. We pray that they might come to Christ with *all* of themselves and be filled.



The future rests with the thousands of bright-eyed boys and girls at Vanga and other stations as they catch the vision of service for HIM.

December

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VANGA: WHAT GOD HATH WROUGHT!

WHEN one comes in contact with the work at Vanga, one is prompted to exclaim, "What hath God wrought !" Certainly no merely human explanation can be given for the continued vitality and growth evidenced among the churches.

Baptisms continue at about 2500 per year. Giving this year amounted to over three-and-a -half million francs ($70,000 !). The special Christmas offering of over $900 was divided between the new church posts of Kenge (in the Boko field) and Leverville and an offering of $88 was sent to the Congo Protestant Council from the World Day of Prayer. We are glad that in spite of heavy salaries and building expenses, our churches continue to look beyond their own needs to those of others.

Reports are apt to give the impression that all churches at Vanga are progressing at the same rate. This is not true. We have churches like Modiambo which have become so big that they've been divided and yet keep on growing. There are posts like Nko, Leverville, and Ngumina which have been struggling for several years, but now are beginning to spurt ahead. Some villages are coming en masse, chief and all, to our posts in those regions now. But others like Muzo and Kibongo are still struggl ing and do not seem to grow.

A force of twenty-one literacy workers will be briefed this fall and put to work in the churches. This is a result of the Lay Leadership institute held earlier this year.

Dr. Osterholm has had his usual heavy schedule — 795 major and 399 minor operations at Vanga plus over 400 operations on other Kwango stations.

The problem of secondary education grows with each passing year. This year over 1300 students finished their primary schooling and only a few have opportunity to continue. We must pray earnestly that the government will approve the starting of our secondary school.

The graduating exercises, were highlighted by a summary of the founding of Vanga by Dr. Leslie. It was noted that the land was bought for sacks of salt, some pieces of cloth, a machette and an axe. After a summary of the difficulties of the early years, the point brought home was, "Was it worth the price ?"

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